

## **President Bush's 2004 Education Budget**

### ***Historic Funding Invests in South Carolina's Future***

Despite all the priorities competing for our tax dollars – strengthening our economy, defending our nation, and expanding opportunities for all Americans – the President's budget **boosts education funding to \$53.1 billion** – an ***\$11 billion increase since the President first took office.***

### **The President's Budget Provides Historic Levels of Funding for America's Children Most in Danger of Being Left Behind by:**

- ***Increasing Title I funding to \$12.4 billion*** to help children succeed in our nation's high-poverty area schools – a **41 percent increase** over funding levels when the President took office.
- ***Increasing Special Education funding to \$9.5 billion*** – **the highest level of federal funding ever requested by a President for children with disabilities** and a **50 percent increase** over funding when President Bush took office. This funding provides an estimated **\$1,426 for each of 6.6 million** special education students.
- Making higher education more accessible and affordable by ***increasing Pell Grant funding to \$12.7 billion*** – a **45 percent increase** over 2001 – and ***increasing Student Aid by nearly \$3 billion*** – a **29 percent increase** since President Bush took office.
- ***Increasing reading funding to more than \$1.1 billion*** for the President's Reading First and Early Reading First programs.
- ***Providing \$756 million to empower parents with new choices and expanded options*** if their children are not learning.
- ***Providing more than \$4.5 billion to support teachers – the heart of our schools*** – through training, recruitment, incentives, loan forgiveness, and tax relief.
- ***Providing \$390 million to help states improve accountability*** systems with annual assessments in grades 3 through 8.
- ***Providing \$300 million to increase the number of mentors*** for children in need.

**Significant increases for Special Education, Title I, and Pell Grants alone** comprise about **1/3 of the new discretionary dollars** the President is seeking for his entire domestic agenda. **No other domestic agency has three programs receiving such monumental increases.**

### **The President's Budget is Great News for South Carolina's Children & Families**

- ***Increases federal education funding in South Carolina to more than \$676 million*** – \$155 million more than when the President took office.
- ***Provides nearly \$264 million to help South Carolina*** implement the reforms of No Child Left Behind.
- ***Increases Title I funding*** to more than \$168 million – \$53 million over 2001 levels – to help South Carolina's neediest children.
- ***Increases Special Education Grants for South Carolina*** to more than \$144 million – \$46 million over 2001 levels.
- ***Provides more than \$162 million in Federal Pell Grants*** to help ensure a college education for South Carolina students who otherwise might not be able to afford one.
- ***Provides access to nearly \$16 million in Reading First funding*** to ensure that every child in South Carolina learns to read by the third grade.
- ***Provides more than \$36 million to attract and retain highly-qualified teachers*** in South Carolina classrooms.
- ***Provides more than \$6 million for annual assessments*** so every mom and dad in South Carolina will know how well their children are learning and where they need improvement.

**The President's budget reflects his strong commitment to the people of South Carolina. It works to strengthen our investment in our nation's economic future – one child at a time.**

*Source: U.S. Department of Education Budget Service. All dollar amounts are estimates as of 3/3/03.  
For more information, please visit: [www.NoChildLeftBehind.gov](http://www.NoChildLeftBehind.gov)*